Software Piracy

437. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) propose to publish White Paper on Software Piracy as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 15th April, 1993;

(b) whether it is a fact that the loss to manufacturers of software in the country due to piracy has been estimated to be Rs. 72 crores;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Secretary, Department of Electronics has reportedly assured the National Association of Software and Service Companies that their demand for zero duty on imported software would be placed before Government of India for containing software piracy; and

(d) if so, whether any Committee for monitoring the implementation by the provisions of this Copyright Act has been set up so far, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the analysis by NASSCOM the estimated loss due to Software Piracy, in the year 1991-92 was Rs. 75 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Information Highway Network

438. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up Rs. 100 crores new generation high speed, high performance, Information Highway network in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are being worked out.

Salt Plant at Kandla

439. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U. S. multinational Cargil has been permitted to set up a Salt Plant at Kandla;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that setting up of this plant at this location would jeopardise our security interests; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to safeguard our security interests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (d) A letter of permission has